

Orem Man, 23, Killed In Tractor Plunge From Rim of Bridal Veil Falls

By JOAN GEYER

Tractor operator Billy Dominguez, 23, Orem, was killed instantly shortly before 10 a.m. today when the small bulldozer he was operating at the top of the cliffs of Bridal Veil Falls plunged over the rim.

An eye witness, Byron Prest-

wich, 22, Orem, said Mr. Dominguez had been scooping up dirt with the cat and dumping it over the rim. He was backing up the cat and apparently miscalculated distance, said Mr. Prestwich.

The Skyride aerial tramway, important Utah County tourist attraction with a perfect safety record since it began operation over a year ago, was not in operation at the time and was in no way involved in the accident.

Mr. Dominguez was an employee of the Swiss-American Cable Way Co., which has contract for excavation for a restaurant and dance hall at the top of the falls.

Horrified witnesses saw the caterpillar tractor hurtle downward from the rim to a point below the falls, some 1600 feet from the rim.

The body was recovered by a rescue team which included the sheriff's office, Utah Highway Patrol, Orem City police and volunteers.

The victim's brother, Bob, also employed at the Skyride, and his mother, Mrs. Rudolph Dominguez, 269 N. 4th W., Provo, wept as they stood in the chill mist by the Provo River.

Then, as they saw the stretcher being carried down the rock falls, hurried forward, as did Father Hilary Hobrecht, St. Francis Church, who administered last rites of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Dominguez' wife, Margene is expecting a baby in February.

His father, Rudolph Dominguez is employed at City and County Building.

Billy Gilbert Dominguez was born at Del Norte, Colo., May 18, 1939.

He married Margene Cox of Provo April 18, 1959, at Ely, Nev. She survives him.

Mr. Dominguez had been employed as a cat operator for about two months. His part in the work at Bridal Veil had been almost completed at time of his death.

Five men were working with him on the rim at the time. The area of operation is about 25 feet by 40 feet.

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BODY RECOVERED—The canvas-draped body of Billy Dominguez, 23, Orem, is carried across the stream at the foot of Bridal Veil Falls by workers at the scene and law officers. The young man plunged to his death this morning when the tractor he was operating on construction work at the top of the Skyride terminal went over the cliff. Far right (foreground) is Rue L. Clegg, owner and operator of the resort, who was one of the witnesses to the tragedy. The Skyride itself was not operating and was not involved in any way with the accident. (Photo by Herald Chief Photographer Harold K. Monson).





VICTIM — William (Billy) Dominguez, 23, Orem, killed instantly Tuesday when he misjudged distance and backed the tractor he was operating over the cliff at the top of Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon.

William Dominguez, 23

Rites Set For Victim of Tractor Fall

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OREM—Requiem Mass will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Provo for William (Billy) Dominguez, 23, Orem, who was killed Tuesday when his tractor plunged over the rim of Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. Mr. Dominguez was operating a caterpillar tractor in excavating at the top of the cliff for construction of a cafe and dinner club.

Holy Rosary will be Thursday evening at 8 in the Olpin-Sundberg Mortuary in Orem. Interment will be in the East Lawn Memorial Hills.

Utah County Sheriff Ralph Chapple said today no autopsy will be held and that he has completed his investigation of the accident. Tracks of the machine showed plainly it just backed over the cliff edge, he said. The edge did not give way but the machine just backed over, the sheriff stated.

Mr. Dominguez is survived by his widow, Orem; parents, Provo; brothers and sisters, John Dominguez, California; Roger Dominguez, with the U.S. Air Force in North Dakota; Mrs. Brent (Eleanor) York, Hawaii; Mrs. Brad (Delores) Haws, Mrs. Gene (Dorothy) Majors, Lorraine, Juanita, Sandra, Bob and Pat Dominguez, all of Provo, and grandfather, Manuel Dominguez, Denver.